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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08038.0043

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Yasuo KOBAYASHI et al.) Group Art Unit: 1763
)
Application No.: 09/667,768) Examiner: Karla A. MOORE
)
Filed: September 22, 2000)
)
For: PROCESSING APPARATUS AND)
PROCESSING METHOD)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

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02 FC:1806

Attached for the Examiner's convenience is a copy of an English language version of a search report from the International Bureau in a corresponding application listing the following non-English documents JP 2000-208498, JP 11-54496, JP 10-335316, JP 6-349791, JP 4-32230, and JP 1-138713, which have been duly noted on the PTO FORM 1449.

Applicants submit the following remarks regarding the non-English language documents:

1. Japanese Patent Application Laying-open (unexamined) 2000-208498 - Applicants believe that EP 1 001 454 may be an English language equivalent to this document. In addition, an abstract of the disclosure of this document can be found in the English language. Finally, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0015261, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application 09/437,500, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application 09/086,574, may relate to EP 1 001 454.

2. Japanese Patent Application Laying-open (unexamined) 11-54496 - Applicants believe that U.S. Patent 5,884,009 may be an English language equivalent to this document. In addition, an abstract of the disclosure of this document can be found in the English language.

3. Japanese Patent Application Laying-open (unexamined) 10-335316 - Applicants believe that EP 0 887 845 may be an English language equivalent to this document. In addition, an abstract of the disclosure of this document can be found in the English language. Finally, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0015261, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application 09/437,500, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application 09/086,574, may relate to EP 0 887 845.

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4. Japanese Patent Application Laying-open (unexamined) 6-349791- An abstract of the disclosure of this document can be found in the English language.

5. Japanese Patent Application Laying-open (unexamined) 4-32230 - An abstract of the disclosure of this document can be found in the English language.

6. Japanese Patent Application Laying-open (unexamined) 1-138713 - An abstract of the disclosure of this document can be found in the English language.

Also attached for the Examiner's convenience is a copy of an English language version of a Notification of First Reason For Rejection in a corresponding application citing a non-English document 277007, which has been duly noted on PTO FORM 1449.

Applicants submit the following remarks regarding the non-English language document:

7. 277007 - Applicants believe that U.S. Patent 5,616,208 may be an English language equivalent to this document. U.S. Patent 5,785,796 is derived as a continuation of U.S. Patent 5,616,208 and may also be relevant.

Applicant submits the following remarks regarding non-English language documents WO 01/27988, WO 00/22660, and 3-155621:

8. WO 01/27988 - Applicants believe U.S. Patent Application 10/110,324 may be an English language equivalent to this document.

9. WO 00/22660 - Applicants believe that EP 1139398 and U.S. Patent Application 09/655,787 may be English language equivalents to this document.

10. Japanese Patent Application Laying-open (unexamined) 3-155621 - An abstract of the disclosure of this document can be found in the English language.

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 30, 2003

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